

2.—FOREST BOUNDARIES.

47. A special forest boundary-mark has been prescribed for the Northern Circle, a specification of which is given in paragraph 31 of the Forest Administration Report for the year 1886 87, and in order to make the indication of the boundary lines clearer the following supplementary instructions were given during the year:—

(1). Three small stones are to be embedded in the ground at distances of six feet apart from the sides of the cairn, and to show a few inches above ground, in order to serve as pointers, to point out the direction of the boundary lines from the centre of the cairn.

(2). A dab of red colour to be given annually to each of the pointers at the time that the centre or indicating stone of the boundary cairn is colour-washed.

The work of demarcation by the erection of forest boundary-marks was carried on vigorously in the several divisions of the Northern Circle, in accordance with the standing orders. 33,958 boundary cairns, both large and small, were erected during the year at a cost of Rs. 11,948, as will be seen from the following table:—

No.	Division.	Length of Boundaries in Miles.	NUMBER OF CAIRNS ERECTED.			Cost.
			Large.	Small.	Total.	
						Rs. a. p.
1	North Thána ...	46	976	...	976	744 1 6
2	South Thána ...	95	800	1,680	2,480	1,249 10 0
3	East Khándesh ...	40	1,648	...	1,648	615 10 6
4	West Khándesh ...	469	566	943	1,509	481 10 0
5	Násik ...	713	778	10,634	11,412	3,554 3 2
6	Ahmednagar ...	52	202	412	614	271 2 6
7	Poona ...	581	1,786	7,007	8,793	2,809 10 9
8	Sátára ...	28	44	1,319	1,363	145 14 1
9	Sholápur ...	99	1,463	1,030	2,493	1,326 8 0
10	Surat ...	8	100	...	100	58 2 0
11	Panch Maháls ...	134	193	2,377	2,570	691 13 0
	Total ...	2,265	8,556	25,402	33,958	11,948 5 6

48. Although the demarcation of forest boundaries upon the ground by providing outward visible signs of forest reservation in the shape of a special forest boundary-mark, which from its peculiar construction, &c., will be known as a forest boundary-mark, wherever it may be seen, has made considerable progress, still the greater portion of this most important work remains to be undertaken, and several years must elapse before all the forest boundaries in every division are finally marked out in the manner prescribed.

3.—FOREST SETTLEMENT.

49. In the Thána Collectorate settlement inquiries were commenced in the talukás of Máhím and Dáhánu, where the Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Wilkins, had prepared and submitted lists of lands selected by him for permanent forest reservation in the Máhím, Dáhánu and Umbargaon Ranges, and all these forest-lands, the greater portions of which are protected forests gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act, had been notified provisionally under Section 4 of the Forest Act. The settlement inquiries which were in progress in the Váda Táluka, as recorded in paragraph 38 of last year's report, were completed during the year.

50. The reference to Government mentioned in paragraph 38, clause 2 of last year's report, regarding the decision of the Collector of Thána, was disposed of by Government, in their Resolution No. 6067, dated 7th September 1888, in the Revenue Department, referring the Conservator of Forests to the Commissioner, Northern Division, for orders. A reference was then made to the Commissioner, who in his No. 3312, dated 19th October 1888, sanctioned the appropriation, for reserved forest, of the lands in question.

51. The appeal to Government under Section 21 of the Forest Act, referred to in paragraph 38, clause 5, of last year's report in connection with certain rights in the village of Ghátkoper, awarded by the Forest Settlement Officer, was disposed of by Government during the year, in their Resolution No. 957, dated 6th February 1889, in the Revenue Department, whereby the decision of the Collector of Thána was not interfered with.

52. Ráo Sáheb Vishnu Rámchandra, Special Officer, Tánša Water-works, has been appointed Forest Settlement Officer in respect of the occupied and other lands upon the Tánša Lake catchment area, which have been acquired for afforestation.

53. In the Khándesh Collectorate Mr. Dodgson, C. S., has continued settlement proceedings. No rights, save of way and of water access, have been found to attach to any of the forests.

54. In the Collectorates of Násik and Ahmednagar the forest settlement has been practically completed. Certain lands, however, which have been notified recently under Section 4 were undergoing inquiries during the year.

55. In the Poona Collectorate the settlement work has been nearly completed. The reference made to Government regarding the decision of the Collector mentioned in paragraph 42, clause 2 of last year's Administration Report, was disposed of by Government Resolution No. 6067, dated 7th September 1888, Revenue Department.

56. In the Collectorates of Sátára, Sholápur, Surat and Panch Maháls no regular settlement work was undertaken during the year, beyond inquiries into rights, &c., respecting a few survey numbers which were previously occupied by survey tenants but had been recently acquired for forests and had been provisionally notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act.

57. The following statement will show the progress made during the year in forest settlements of the old forest areas which had been gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act in March 1879 :—

Class of Forest.	At the commencement of the year, Areas under Section 34 in which Private Rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	AREAS SETTLED DURING THE YEAR.		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year Areas under Section 34 in which Private Rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	REMARKS.
		Chapter II of the Forest Act.	Chapter IV of the Forest Act.				
	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	
Northern Thána... { Reserved	201	...	...	...	...	201	
{ Protected	291	...	...	...	...	291	
Southern Thána... { Reserved	99	...	...	...	...	99	
{ Protected	329	...	...	...	...	329	
Eastern Khándesh { Reserved	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Khándesh { Reserved	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Násik ... { Reserved	84	...	...	...	...	84	
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ahmednagar ... { Reserved	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poona ... { Reserved	192	...	...	...	...	192	
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sátára ... { Reserved	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sholápur ... { Reserved	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surat ... { Reserved	733	...	...	...	...	733	
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Panch Maháls ... { Reserved	152	105	...	4	...	43	
{ Protected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	2,081	105	...	4	...	1,972	